[Mr. P. N. Krishna Pillai.]

The cost of other accessories supplied by the English Electric Company and the General Service Company, Madras, is Rs. 330-8-0.

(*c*) No. The articles were purchased from the undernoted firms through Dr. H. Paramesvaran with the sanction of the Government:—

1. The English Electric Company, Madras.
2. The General Service Company, Do.

(*d*) Yes. Dr. Paramesvaran sent his voucher for the Receiving Set alone which was made under his supervision, as the order was placed through him. For the materials and accessories, the firms which supplied them sent their vouchers.

(*e*) The Account Officer asked for the vouchers of the firm who sold the set and the same were supplied.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) No. The requirement of a Wireless Set at the Observatory was for time-signal work, and in the case of a Wireless Set assembled for this purpose there is the guarantee of its efficient working, which may not be the case if a ready made set intended mainly for other purposes and usually available with firms, was ordered without previous test. It was for this reason that quotations from firms were not called for.

(*h*) The same sort of materials as were purchased for the Observatory were not purchased for the Science College.

(*i*) The correspondence* on the subject is laid on the table.

(*j*) No.

(*k*) (*l*) and (*m*). These questions do not arise, in view of the answer to part (*j*).

Copyists of the Land Revenue Department.

272. **MR. V. S. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are in receipt of a petition from the copyists of the Tiruvalla Taluk Cutcherry stating their grievances for not enlisting them as permanent employes of the Land Revenue Department;

(*b*) whether the services of copyists are indispensable in Taluk Cutcherries;

(*c*) whether the Government will incur any loss, if they are made permanent; and

(*d*) whether they will consider the matter and redress the grievances of the copyists by making their services permanent and pensionable?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

* *Vide* Appendix V-pages 511—515.

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(*b*) The services of copyists are required in Taluk Offices for making copies of records applied for by private parties.

(*c*) and (*d*) The question was considered by the Government before and they have decided that it is not necessary to make the services of these copyists permanent and pensionable.

Maistries of the P. W. Department.

273. **MR. D. FRANCIS** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware of a resolution passed in a meeting of the Fourth Conference of the All Travancore Work Establishment Association of the Public Works Department held on the 30th May 1926 presided over by Mr. M. K. Govinda Pillai and forwarded to the Government and the Chief Engineer;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether they have taken any steps for treating these maistries in the matter of permanency and grant of pension like their brother workers in the other departments; and

(*c*) whether they will consider the claims of these maistries and allow them at least gratuity, privilege leave, etc., in case pension cannot be given them?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The maistries cannot be given privilege leave; but men with long service are in deserving cases given gratuity.

Improvement of Paddy cultivation in Vaikam Taluk.

274. **MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN** (*Vaikam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received representations from the inhabitants of Parur, Udayamperur and Kandanad in the Vaikam taluk urging the necessity for putting up a bund to prevent the rush of brine into the extensive paddy fields adjacent to these places; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the steps taken by them to redress the grievances of these ryots?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) As a portion of the work is in Cochin territory and Cochin lands also would be benefited by the proposed bund, the views of the Cochin Government have to be ascertained. The matter is under correspondence.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): With reference to the answer to part (*b*) of the question, may I know how long the matter has been under correspondence?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Since 1923.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): Do not the Government think that there is necessity for hastening up the matter?

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